Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (New) A method for diagnosing a dynamic characteristics of a lambda sensor, which is used at least intermittently for a cylinder-individual lambda control, the method comprising:

detecting at least one actuating variable of the lambda control;

comparing the at least one actual variable to a specifiable maximum threshold; and

if the maximum threshold is exceeded, a dynamic response of the lambda sensor is deemed insufficient with respect to usability for the cylinder-individual lambda control.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the value of lambda of at least one cylinder is detuned by a specifiable value and it is ascertained whether the detuning by the specifiable value is reflected as an offset or a factor in an actuating variable of a particular controller of the lambda control.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein it is ascertained whether a difference or an absolute value of the difference between detuning and offset is smaller than the specifiable maximum threshold.

10. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the value of lambda is detuned by variation of the cylinder-individual fuel metering.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

detecting a suitable operating range for the cylinder-individual lambda control;

monitoring the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers and, if at least one of the actuating variables exceeds its maximum amount, implementing the following:

detecting a suitable instant for implementing the following:

buffer-storing the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;

detuning the value of lambda of at least one cylinder by the specifiable value;

monitoring the actuating variables of the individual lambda controllers;

determining whether the lambda controllers are able to compensate the detuning of the value of lambda, and if the lambda controllers are able to do so, cancellating the detuning, and re-initializing the individual lambda controllers by the buffer-stored actuating variables; and

otherwise, outputting a fault signal.

13. (New) A diagnosis device for diagnosing a dynamic characteristics of a lambda sensor, which is used at least intermittently for a cylinder-individual lambda control, comprising:

a detecting arrangement to detect at least one actuating variable of the lambda control;

a comparing arrangement to compare the at least one actual variable to a specifiable maximum threshold; and

an arrangement to determine, if the maximum threshold is exceeded, that a dynamic response of the lambda sensor is deemed insufficient with respect to usability for the cylinder-individual lambda control.